

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 100994

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VN

SUBJECT: VIETNAM: PRESS GUIDANCE

FOR LAWS OF WAR DELEGATION - ALDRICH

1. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED TODAY FOR CONTINGENCY USE AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING. NO REPEAT NO QUESTIONS WERE ASKED AT NOON BRIEFING CONCERNING VIETNAM.

2. QUOTE QUESTION: DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE ELECTIONS HELD YESTERDAY IN VIET NAM?

ANSWER: WE HAVE NO COMMENT EXCEPT TO NOTE THAT THE ELECTIONS FOR A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ALL VIET NAM SIMPLY MAKE OFFICIAL WHAT HAS BEEN THE DE FACTO SITUATION FOR THE PAST YEAR.

QUESTION: WILL THIS REUNIFIED VIET NAM MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE TO AMERICAN POLICY?

ANSWER: NO.

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PAGE 02 STATE 100994

QUESTION: HAS THE DEPARTMENT FINISHED ITS STUDY OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE NOTE OF RESPONSE TO YOUR MARCH 26 MESSAGE?
ANSWER: WE ARE STILL STUDYING THEIR REPLY.

QUESTION: WHERE DOES THE DEPARTMENT STAND IN THE DEBATE BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND JIMMY CARTER OVER OUR VIET NAM POLICY?

ANSWER: OUR VIEWS ON VIET NAM WERE STATED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY LAST WEEK.

QUESTION: BUT THE SECRETARY'S VIEWS ARE AT VARIANCE WITH THE ONES STATED BY THE PRESIDENT AND ARE IN FACT, CLOSER TO THOSE OF JIMMY CARTER. DO YOU STAND BY THE VIEWS OF THE SECRETARY OR DO THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS NOW REPRESENT U.S. POLICY?

ANSWER: THERE IS NO INCOMPATIBILITY BETWEEN THE TWO, AS NOTED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER IN HIS MEETING WITH THE PRESS IN LONDON LAST SATURDAY (APRIL 24). UNQUOTE.

3. TEXT OF SECRETARY'S APRIL 24 REMARKS IN LONDON IS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE QUESTION: CAN I ASK YOU ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE, IF YOU WOULD PLEASE. IN INDIANAPOLIS TODAY PRESIDENT FORD SAID THERE WAS NO PROSPECT THE U.S. WILL EXTEND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS TO NORTH VIETNAM. SOME REPORTERS OUT THERE SENSE A CONTRADICTION IN WHAT YOU SAID IN THE PAST. WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS, AND IS THERE ANY CONTRADICTION BETWEEN YOUR POSITION AND THE PRESIDENT'S?

ANSWER: PRESIDENT FORD AND I MEET PRACTICALLY EVERY DAY AND IT IS TRADITIONAL THAT THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE COINCIDE WITH THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE PRESIDENT - A TRADITION WHICH IS NOT GOING TO BE INTERRUPTED THIS YEAR. AS I UNDERSTAND THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT, AND I HAVE TALKED TO GENERAL SCOWCROFT IN THE INTERVAL, AND I BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT HAS SPOKEN IN THIS SENSE TODAY AS WELL, IT WAS HIS ASSESSMENT THAT SINCE IT WAS THE PRESIDENT'S ASSESSMENT THAT SINCE WE HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN A SATISFACTORY ANSWER TO THE MISSING-IN-ACTION THAT HE SAW NO PROSPECT OF NORMALIZING RELATIONS. AND, THEREFORE, THE POLICY OF THE ADMINISTRATION IS AS THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED IN HAWAII IN DECEMBER AND WE'VE REPEATED SINCE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 100994

WE ARE PREPARED TO TALK TO NORTH VIETNAM BUT THE ABSOLUTE PRECONDITION TO OUR CONSIDERING ANY OTHER MOVE IS AN ACCOUNTING OF THE MISSING-IN-ACTION. UNQUOTE. SISCO

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